Crashes involving Indian Air Force Planes

1635. SHRI F. M. KHAN:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Indian Air Force planes crashed during the last three years, yearwise;

(b) how many Indian Air Force pilots have lost their lives or injured seriously, yearwise; and

(c) what are the reasons for such crashes and what steps Government propose to eliminate it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The details regarding number of air crashes and pilots who lost their lives or were injured seriously are of classified nature and cannot be disclosed in the public interest.

(c) The major causes of air accidents have been identified to be human error, technical defects and bird strikes. A number of steps have been taken to reduce accidents due to these causes which is an ongoing process. Some of them are given below:—

Human errors

The important remedial measures taken to reduce accidents due to human error are:—

(i) The training pattern has been modified and a new syllabi has been introduced with emphasis on advanced operational tarining exercises.

(ii) The training syllabi have been reviewed in depth to ensure that junior posts are introduced to high workload| high risk exercises in a progressive|regulated manner. Standards for each phase of training have been set and are being monitored.

(iii) Radio and Navigational aids are being given particular attention. Mandatory requirement of essential aids at airfields has been defined.

(iv) Appropriate instructions have been issued to ensure that medical factors like aircrew fatigue and hypoglyoemia do not contribute to accidents.

(v) Instrument flying training and night flying training have been reviewed to meet operational requirements by day and night.

(vi) Setting and quantification of flying training standards in flying training establishments have been established.

(vii) A system of monitoring training standards and standards of Qualifying Flying Instructure has been introduced.

Technical defects

The major steps taken|being taken to reduce accidents by technical defects are:—

(i) Accidents due to doesign or manufacturing deficiencies are brought to the notice of the manufacturers for introducing modifications in aircraft. Pending such modifications short term remedial measures, in consultation with them, are expeditiously implemented.

(ii) Technical type Training Schools are being set up for various types of aircraft. Technicians will be given extended training on particular aircraft types.

(iii) Setting and quantification of standards in technical training establishments has been undertaken.

(iv) The Crew Chief System of aircraft servicing has been introduced on a trial basis.

(v) The training period for Branch Commissioned Officers has been extended to include technical and management education.

(vi) Wing Maintenance has been restructured and percentage of untrained technicians reduced.

(vii) Experienced Supervisors have been placed Incharge of aircraft servicing repairs, and teams of technicians formed to service particular aircraft.

Bird strike

Due to the increased urbanisation and industrialisation bird hazard to aircraft is on the increase. The steps taken to avoid bird strike accidents are:—

(i) Airfield Environment Management Committees have been set up under the Chairmanship of the concerned Collector/Distt. Magistrate to take necessary steps to keep the environment around airfields safe for flying.

(ii) Bird hazard combat teams have been established on an experimental basis at 5 selected airfields. These teams report bird activity to pilots and also kill/scare away the birds.

(iii) Use of bird watchers at airfields to keep pilots informed about bird activity in the arfield circuit areas.

(iv) Publicity drive by means of radio, TV newspapers and posters is being undertaken to educate the general public about bird hazard to aircraft and necessity to maintain clean environment around airfields.

(v) The State Govenments and local bodies are being regularly contacted to take steps for sanitisation of areas outside the perimeter of Defence airfields.

Delay in appointment of judges

1636. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:

SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the conferences Chief Justices have expressed a strong view point about the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High courts in the existing vacancies if so, what is the position of vacancies; by when Government propose to fill up these vacancies, so that the pendency may be cleared in the shortest possible time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): As on 1st March 1988, there were 9 vacancies in the authorised strength of 26 Judges in the Supreme Court, and 65 vacancies in the total sanctioned strength of 443 Judges in various High Courts of the country.

2. The Coneference of Chief Justice held in December, 1987 emphasised filling up of the vacancies of Judges as expeditiously as possible after effective consultation with the concerned authorities.

3. The Government have reiterated the instructions prescribing the time schedule wherein the Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers and Governors of States have to send their recommendations for filling in posts of Judges in High Courts, and have requested them to adhere to it so that the vacancies are filled in expeditiously.

4. Selection of Judges involves deliberation in consultation with the concerned constitutional authorities and it a continuous process. It is not possible to indica any define time for filling up vacanc of Judges in the Supreme Court and Hi, Courts.

Elimination of Intermediate and short range missiles

1637. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what further steps have been taken by Government as a follow up of the recent treaty on elimination of intermediate and short range missiles signed at the Washington Summit between big two nuclear powers and towards signing of treaty between nuclear powers for elimination of all nuclear weapons and prevention of production and development of nuclear weapons aimed at establishing permanent world peace free from nuclear weapons; and

(b) how far the Big powers are nearer to signing of such a treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The Government of India welcomed the INF